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LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to the request contained in the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 5 April 1993 (S/25530), I have the honour to submit the following information relating to recent incidents which resulted in the deaths of members of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

On 27 March 1993 at approximately 1950 hours, an UNTAC post in Angkor Chum district in Siem Reap Province occupied by a unit of the Bangladesh contingent came under mortar and small-arms fire. The attackers advanced to within 200 to 300 metres. The UNTAC soldiers returned fire from their trenches, using small-arms fire and grenades. They were able to stop the attackers' advance and the attackers gradually retreated. The attack lasted for about one hour followed by intermittent firing of small arms and mortars. Evidence subsequently came to light that two of the attackers had been killed.

Early in the attack, a Bangladeshi soldier was wounded. He was evacuated by air to UNTAC Field Hospital in Siem Reap but he subsequently died from his wounds in the early hours of the following day. Four Cambodian civilians were also injured in the incident.

Investigation by UNTAC strongly indicates that the attack was deliberately directed against the UNTAC position by members of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). It appears that members of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF), who were located some 1,000 metres away, may also have returned fire against the attackers.

On 29 March 1993 at approximately 2300 hours, a Bangladeshi civilian member of UNTAC was shot through the head and killed as the car in which he was a passenger passed a group of CPAF soldiers in central Phnom Penh.

The victim was travelling in an unmarked car with two other Bangladeshi nationals, one of whom was a member of the UNTAC Civilian Police Component; the other was a non-UNTAC civilian. The CPAF soldiers were apparently manning a check-point and fired on the car when it passed. The CPAF authorities have since arrested two soldiers and charged them with the murder of the UNTAC staff member.

In the evening of 2 April 1993, at an UNTAC post at Phum Prek in Kompong Speu Province, the local NADK commander, accompanied by two soldiers, joined the 11 members of the Bulgarian battalion stationed there for dinner. Relations between the Bulgarian soldiers and the local NADK members had previously been good.

After dinner the NADK commander left and returned at about 2305 hours with 10 to 15 armed soldiers. The NADK members then opened fire on the unarmed Bulgarian soldiers with automatic weapons and hand grenades, killing three and wounding three others, before withdrawing.

Later that night and until dawn of the next day the Bulgarian camp again came under NADK mortar and small-arms fire, but there were no further UNTAC losses.

The six casualties were transported by road to the nearby Bulgarian contingent position at Amelean, also in Kompong Speu Province, where the three wounded were airlifted to Phnom Penh. One is being treated in the UNTAC Field Hospital in Phnom Penh and the other two have been evacuated to Bangkok for further treatment.

On the night of 5 April 1993 at approximately 2345 hours, the Bulgarian position at Amelean came under machine-gun fire and a sentry was wounded in the abdomen. The wounded soldier was evacuated for medical treatment to Bangkok, where it was determined that his spinal cord was damaged, resulting in the paralysis of both legs.

On the morning of 8 April 1993 at approximately 0745 hours, a United Nations Volunteer of Japanese nationality in the UNTAC Electoral Component and his Cambodian interpreter were detained by armed and uniformed men as they were travelling by car in Prasat Sambo District, Kompong Thom Province. They were shot and died of their wounds. UNTAC has not been able to determine responsibility for this act, which took place in an area contested by the forces of different factions, and investigations are proceeding on an urgent basis.

On 19 April 1993 at approximately 0230 hours, the UNTAC District headquarters in Oaral District, Kompong Speu Province, came under attack. The office is in the vicinity of a CPAF camp. An Indonesian Civilian Police monitor who, together with four Bulgarian soldiers, was in the District headquarters at the time radioed for assistance and a Fast Response Team was dispatched from a nearby Bulgarian company position to the scene. This consisted of an armoured personnel carrier (APC) with seven soldiers.

When the APC was approximately 1.5 kilometres from the District headquarters, it came under fire from both sides. One anti-tank grenade hit the vehicle from the right side and penetrated the armour. One Bulgarian soldier was killed instantly and five others were wounded, one of them seriously.

The attackers ransacked, looted and caused serious damage to the UNTAC District office, and the nearby District Civil Administration office also came under attack. In addition, the attackers, who were said to number about 100, destroyed a total of seven buildings belonging to local people. In the course

of the attack on the UNTAC office, an Indonesian Civilian Police monitor and a Cambodian interpreter were also injured.

Preliminary investigations by UNTAC indicate that members of NADK were responsible for the attack. In view of the fact that the UNTAC offices were located adjacent to a CPAF camp and that non-UNTAC buildings were also destroyed in the attack, it cannot be concluded that UNTAC was the target, or at least the sole target of the attack.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI